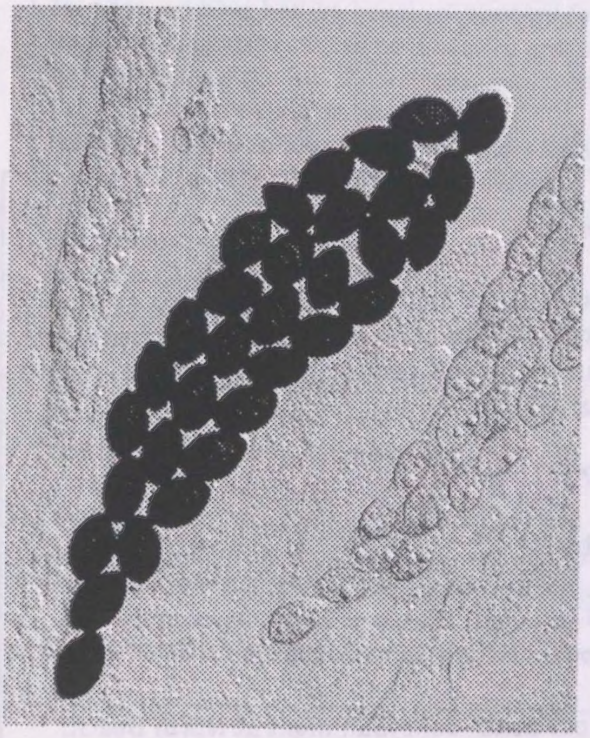
The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 22, 2001



(A microscopic image of ascosphores)

Re-PEET

Another PEET grant for the Field, Huhndorf

In last week's Natural News, we reported on a new National Science Foundation PEET (Partnerships for the Enhancement of Expertise in Taxonomy) grant in Zoology with a still-pending proposal from Botany. This week, we are happy to announce that Botany Collections Manager **Sabine Huhndorf** has also received a PEET grant. This is her second award under this program, and it is fully funded at $744,576.

Her research will assess the true phylogenetic relationships of the family Lasiosphaeriaceae, the largest and least studied family in the order Sordariales (Fungi, Ascomycetes). Her first PEET project identified relationships significantly different from traditional classification schemes. The next phase will provide a taxonomic revision of Podospora, one of the largest and most complex genera in the group, and the key to understanding phylogenetic relationships in the family. This study will serve as a model system for future studies in ascomycete systematics through its use of molecular and morphological techniques. Fieldwork will be undertaken in several sites in the United States, Denmark, New Zealand, Costa Rica and Ecuador. The project has been designed to provide comprehensive training

(continued on following page)

Natural News Online is on hiatus this week. It will return June 29.

FIELD NOTES

June 22-29, 2001

Staff/Volunteer Events

3rd Annual Intern Luncheon
Friday, June 29, 2001
11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Details inside

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., FP&O Conference Room

Public/Campus Events

Continuing Exhibtions:

- **Kinetosaurs**
- **Julie Taymor**
- **Living Colors**
- **Wrapped in Pride**
- **In Her Hands**

The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement. ***The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, June 20 at noon.***

(*PEET funding*, Continued from front page)

in collections-based, monographic studies for one postdoctoral associate, one doctoral graduate student, and several undergraduate interns.

The PEET program is NSF's response to ever-shrinking expertise in "whole organism" biology. The Field Museum is one of very few institutions to have more than one of these prestigious grants, and with five it is simply unmatched. Currently, the University of Kansas has three PEET grants, and the Smithsonian has four. Other Field Museum PEET grants include **Margaret Thayer's** research for "Monography, phylogeny, and historical biogeography of austral Staphylinidae (Coleoptera)," **Rüdiger Bieler's** research for "Bivalves: Research, Training, Electronic Dissemination of Data," Huhndorf's earlier research for "Monographs of Two Key Genera and Family-Level Phylogeny (Fungi, Ascomycetes, Sordariales)," and **Petra Sierwald's** research for "The Diplopoda: Research, Taxonomic Training and Computerization."

Deborah A. Bakken
Academic Affairs

Intern Luncheon

Interns!!! Join the Human Resources Department and members of the Executive Team next Friday, June 29 for our 3rd Annual Intern Luncheon. The luncheon will take place from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Northwest Terrace (beneath the Brachiosaurus). This will be a great opportunity to meet other interns from across the Museum, speak with Museum executives, and enjoy great food!!!

Please RSVP to the Human Resources Department (ext.7271) by Tuesday, June 26.

Save the Dates

Exhibitions/HR Summer Party!! Friday, July 13 from 5 to 10pm. Eat, drink and dance under the brachiosaurus and the stars on the northwest terrace. Don't miss this summer classic.

Beach Volleyball!! Thursday, July 19 we will be having our beach volleyball night at North Beach. We will provide transportation to North Beach. Keep an eye out for more information.

Chase Race!! Thursday, August 9 after work in Grant Park. Join over 150 Field Museum Staff and Interns in this three-mile run followed by snacks and refreshments. You will be contacted soon to sign up for this event.

Sam Burns, *HR*

Christian Fellowship will meet from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.,in Classroom 3, ground floor. Got questions? Contact **Sandra Blake**, on ext. 7535 or e-mail her at sblake@fmnh.org.

The discussion for the hour: "Your attitude determines you altitude."

Sandra Blake, *Education*

Natural Use

The Recycling Committee sends out kudos to **Vicki Halit** and the rest of the Corner Bakery staff for all their efforts towards recycling at Corner Bakery. For easier recycling of cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles, tall blue bins have been placed next to the trash receptacles and are easily identified. We greatly appreciate all the efforts of Corner Bakery's in raising awareness in recycling!

Award of Excellence Nominees

Thus far, we have had 16 people nominated for our Award of Excellence. The selection committee has been busy meeting to discuss the nominations and the awards. Award recipients will be selected by the committee from the list of nominees, approved by our executive team, and announced at our Employee Recognition Ceremony on November 1, 2001. While we look forward to seeing who our final award recipients will be, please join us in congratulating the following individuals who have already been nominated by their peers for consideration for the Award of Excellence:

Nel Fetherling – Exhibitions
Danielle Kiefer – Exhibitions
Pat Kremer – Public Relations
Eric Manabat – Exhibitions
Anita Purnell – Computer Serv/Telecom
June Robinson – Guest Relations
Vietrice Thompson – Development
David Willard – Zoology
John Flynn – Geology
Neil Keliher – Exhibitions
Holly Lundberg – Anthro/Conservation
Debra Moskovits – ECP
Paula Ramos – Guest Relations
Laura Sadler – Business Enterprises
Dirk Urban – Exhibitions
Janet Young – Development

In this edition of the Natural News, you will find a nomination form for the Award of Excellence. We encourage you to continue nominating individuals who exemplify excellence in their work.

Shawn VanDerziel , *HR*

"Pump In Style" at The Field Museum

The Human Resources department is pleased to announce the addition of another benefit that helps to make our employees' lives easier! We have purchased our very own breastpump for new mothers returning to work while still breastfeeding. We have purchased the Medela "Pump in Style" and a Battery PowerPak. We hope that the purchase of this equipment will aid the transition back to work for new mothers.

The Pump and Powerpak will be stored in the EMT's office, currently in Siragusa Center. During the day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., you may simply stop by or call the EMT at ext. 7554 to check the availability of the Pump. After hours, you may contact a Protection Services Supervisor at ext. 7985 in order to gain access to the EMT office and the Pump In Style. The EMT will keep the PowerPak Battery charged at all times, so it will always be ready for use. You may take both the Pump and the PowerPak to a location of your choice (e.g. the nursing station, the administrative bathrooms, etc) and then return it to the EMT office when you are finished. You will also be asked to sign out the equipment so that we may keep track of its whereabouts. Keep in mind that you will need to supply your own suction cups, containers, tubing, etc.

Please feel free to contact **Heather Friend** at ext. 7275 with any specific questions.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wildlife Conservation Society Colleague Visits FMNH

Richard Tshombe, coordinator for socio-economic studies for Wildlife Conservation Society in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve, Epulu, stopped by the Field Museum June 11th on his way to Brookfield Zoo for talks in connection with their Ituri Forest exhibit. He has been working on developing materials to promote community awareness of the severe environmental damage being caused by influx of miners looking for coltan (colombo tantalite) near the Ituri forest of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

While at The Field Museum, he met with **Bill Stanley**, **John Bates**, **Steve Goodman**, and **Dan Brinkmeier**. Brinkmeier primarily talked with Richard about developing new communication strategies the Congolese could use to reach their audiences, and how to improve the effectiveness of printed educational materials now in use. Bates and Brinkmeier both talked with him about forming stronger connections with Field Museum collaborative projects in Lwiro and Uvira. These programs are funded by the MacArthur Foundation and many of the issues for the region are shared (such as the issues of coltan mining). One suggestion Richard had is that if we put together a short seminar on conservation communication issues while we are in the Congo late this year (TBA), he and his production staff would come down to Bukavu to meet other conservation staff working on similar issues. Our presence would be the impetus to bring Congolese institutions together and to discuss how they can work together and share resources. This would help future work/training to be done at Lwiro and Uvira. It's also possible that this seminar would be held at Makerere University in Kampala, and the institutions would meet there instead of Bukavu.

Richard is also a close friend of a number of our Congolese colleagues including Omari Ilambu, who worked at The Field Museum back in 1988 and provided the original idea for the Field Museum collaborations with the Congolese research stations.

Pryer, Dabich Make Botany Journal

The June issue of *American Journal of Botany* features an article by **Kathleen Pryer** on filmy ferns—and the cover sports a watercolor reproduction by Botany's Scientific Illustrator **Zorica Dabich** of an 1862 drawing. Zorica also drew a plate for the article. Zorica's beautiful cover can be seen on the Web at: http://www.amjbot.org/content/vol88/issue6/cover.html.

The Field Museum at the Chicagoland Show

Wendy Taylor, Collections Manager, Fossil Invertebrates, traveled out to the DuPage County Fairgrounds for the three day Memorial Day weekend to share some of the Museum's invertebrate collection with an estimated attendance of 1,500 to 2,000 visitors. She also brought two wonderful dioramas (on loan to the Museum) that showed what a Silurian reef and the Mazon Creek habitat looked like long ago. The youngsters at the show enjoyed the coloring and clay modeling projects, and everyone was happy to see The Field Museum at the show and are looking forward to future Field appearances.

Karen Nordquist, *Geology Volunteer*

Phil Janney Visits ESCONI

On Friday night June 8, **Phil Janney**, Manager, Isotope Geochemistry Lab, traveled to the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn to make a slide presentation to the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois (ESCONI). His talk was titled "An Introduction to the Earth's Mantle" and he discussed the makeup of the earth from its molten core to the continents that make up the continental crust. He gave a picture of the formation of the earth itself and how it is composed now and showed samples of some of the materials that have been found that show us the composition of the mantle below. Everyone left the meeting with a better appreciation of this earth on which we live.

Karen Nordquist, ***Geology Volunteer and ESCONI member***

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

* Summer is definitely here! Chicago is becoming quickly known as America's city of free festivals and year-round celebrations. So enjoy Taste of Chicago and come back for a second helping.

Chicago Country Music Festival	June 30 - July 1
Taste of Chicago	June 29 - July 8
Chicago Outdoor Film Festival	July 17 - August 28
Chicago Race to Taste	July 1
Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament	July 21 & 22
Chicago Venetian Night	July 28
Chicago Air & Water Show	August 18 & 19
Viva! Chicago Latin Music Festival	August 25 & 26
Chicago Jazz Festival	August 30 - September 2
Celtic Fest Chicago	September 15 & 16
World Music Festival	September 20 - 30
Chicagoween	October
Mayor's Holiday Sports Festival	December 28 - 30

For detailed information, please call the Mayor's Office of Special Events at 312.744.3370 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/special events.

* Navy Pier has begun its summer-long series of pyrotechnics displays. The fireworks are scheduled for each Wednesday evening at 9:30 p.m. and each Saturday evening at 10:15 p.m.

Christina Breslow
Museum Campus

HELOISE NATHAN
19 PARK LANE
GOLF, ILLINOIS 60029

June 11, 2001

Ms. Marie O. Rendach
Field Museum
1400 South Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Ms. Renach:

On behalf of the African Violet Society of America, thank you for the wonderful tour of Sue on May 31, 2001. Your lecture was both fascinating and fun. The tour was "chock full" of very interesting facts and information and captivated our complete attention.

If ever you have a notion to grow African Violets, please do not hesitate to call on me for any questions.

Very truly yours,

Heloise Nathan

Heloise Nathan
Tour Assistant
African Violet Society of America
Lake Shore African Violet Society
Chicago Affiliate

Cc: Mr. John McCarter Pres. & C.E.O.

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

Absinthe. The word calls up images of smoky cafés, late-night revelries in the Lapin Agile on Montmartre and, often, political and social perturbations. The drink was derigueur in the 19th century and not banned in the United States until 1912.

I suppose it was consumed, not only for the psycho-active effects (purportedly alertness and creativity) but for the magical transformation of the liquor from clear green to milky white. Edouard Manet, Oscar Wilde, Henri de ToulouseLautrec, Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway watched the distilled essence of wormwood (plus other herbs and natural ingredients) change as water was poured over sugar in a slotted spoon and the oils turned colloidal in the glass.

When Café Absinthe opened in the mid-90s, I was intrigued and vowed to visit soon. "Soon" turned out to be last Saturday when Renée Berentsen and I walked in from the Bucktown heat after an afternoon of antique hunting. We found the entrance, in an alley off Damen, and walked into a large, open high-ceilinged room. It's small, seating for only 60-some, but inviting and cosy with an enormous faux "Pernod" ad (Pernod was one of the largest producers of absinthe in France) painted on the east wall.

New menus are printed every day with clearly defined offerings and specials. The wine list is unusual in that it has one selection for glass portion placed at the head of each group of wines. After we cooled down with a couple of rum collins, our waiter, Steve, helped define some unfamiliar words like "polpettes" and "rapini."

We ordered the terrine of foie gras with onion/golden raisin marmalade and Madeira reduction. Delicious and buttery as what I experienced on rue du Cardinal-LeMoine in 1999. Good thing for me because it was Renée's first experience with this liver derivative.

She ordered cranberry/walnut chicken roulade with potato/sweet potato mash and sautéed rapini (like broccoli, only thinner stalks -leaves, stems and florets all eaten) for $15. I chose the grilled lamb chops with Boursin polpettes (little 2-inch pads of potato and cheese, shallow-fried), bok choy and mustard greens. All very tasty, even if one of the chops was rubbery—not a good characteristic at $25.

We ordered a "hazelnut napoleon with poached Door County cherries" for dessert. I've said it before and I'll say it again. Stacking three sugar-cookie triangles with creamy filling in between does not make the result a napoleon. Call me picky. Also, there was not a hint of hazelnut within a mile of the pile. I suppose they ran out of nuts and used limes—an effective substitute. $7 for the pleasure.

It's a great place with related Border Line Tap next door, Red Dog nightclub upstairs and cousin Green Dolphin Street a ways further north. The light comes in the north and south facing windows but it doesn't feel like a cavern. The kitchen is small and open, everything in view. And, there's a book at the main entrance describing life with a glass of absinthe. I'll be back.

Café Absinthe
1954 W. North Ave.
7732784488
Hours: 5:30 - 10 p.m. seven days a week

BOOKWMN SPEAKS

By Paula Ramos

One of the top ten small bookstores in Chicago, is just two minutes from your desk; The Field Museum Store! Our award-winning store has plenty of natural light, hundreds of titles, helpful booksellers and best of all, it offers you relaxed lunch hour browsing that is exactly what you need to clear away those morning meeting cobwebs. The Field Museum Store is the little museum, inside the big museum, that welcomes you with packed shelves featuring oversized art and history books that will do more for your family than just decorate your coffee table; between those giants of literature are the not to be missed small jewels from the *Discoveries* soft cover series. Over thirty titles are available for your immediate purchase; 20 percent off with your employee/volunteer discount makes them most affordable and even better than that, their pocket size makes them travel smart and easy to stow.

The *Discoveries* volumes are known in the publishing industry as crossover books, as they have a tremendously wide appeal for both adults and children of all ages and reading levels. Henry N. Abrams Inc. lovingly renders these books and this house is one of the reasons e-books will never wipe out the printed page. The bulk of the *Discoveries* format fascinates the reader with absorbing text; it sprinkles captions that simultaneously encourage and answer questions. The quality of the accompanying artwork is beyond compare, showcasing both renowned and less-known works, photographs and paintings that inspire curiosity. Before you belt the kids in the station wagon, for short or long distance travel, place a pile of the *Discoveries* books between them and I guarantee a more blissful drive. These are guy books and grandma books and I cannot say enough about the importance of sharing these colorful gems with a non-reading young person; you will not have to preach the importance of reading, just hand them one of these books. For less than ten dollars you will change their destiny.

I will quote directly from the backs of three of my current favorite titles of these multifaceted books, as I would often sell books in this manner back when I was working at my second favorite job-bookseller. Please note, each selection in this series contains the core writing and a bibliography, a documents section, a complete list of illustrations and a comprehensive index that makes locating facts fast and easy, even for children with relatively limited spelling skills.

Colors-The Story of Dyes and Pigments-Francois Delamare and Bernard Guineau-"Color is all around us; we take it for granted as a naturally occurring element of all things. Yet colors are also manufactured and the science of pigments, hues and dyes has an ancient and fascinating history. From the painted caves at Lascaux, 40,000 years old, to the medieval cloth trade that enriched Europe to the synthetic chemistry of today, the history of color making has had a central place in our lives." The newest addition to the line and it is much more than an art book; if you sew, quilt, knit or crochet you must own this book!

Megaliths-Stones of Memory-Jean-Pierre Mohen-"Throughout the ages, at sites across Europe, massive standing stones have long kept silent vigil. Who erected the immense megaliths of Stonehenge and Carnac and those, less famous, of Scandinavia, Malta and Spain?" In this book, you will "find both ancient knowledge and modern discoveries and learn the special significance-architectural, scientific, religious and cultural-of the enigmatic standing stones of prehistory, which still today fill us with a sense of magic and mystery." Teens especially have a passion for this subject. These books increase vocabularies!

Underwater Archaeology- Exploring the World Beneath the Sea-Jean-Yves Blot-"The staggering treasures that lie beneath the ocean make the seabed the biggest museum in the world. For a century, divers have been plundering its riches, bringing up ancient Greek statues, Viking ships, 18th-century trading vessels and even entire towns. Learn how underwater archaeology—so different from its above ground counterpart—can reveal lost worlds." To Amy E. Harmon, Buyer extraordinaire, I say, thank you for the wonderful bounty you select for The Field Museum Store, in the way of books, paper, media and oh yes, ROCKS!

"If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying."
—John Ruskin (1819-1900)

Women's Bureau – Region V
U.S. Department of Labor

Presents

EXPANDING THE PIPELINE: WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

A regional conference to promote career and educational opportunities for women and girls in SET

Friday, July 27, 2001
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

at

Illinois Institute of Technology
Engineering 1 Building
10 West 32nd Street
Chicago, Illinois

"We need to recognize that the 21st century economy is not the same one we grew up with, and America's 21st century workforce has to adjust to those changes.... What we refer to as the New Economy presents hopeful opportunities: thousands of good-paying, stimulating jobs ... with limitless potential for advancement."

Elaine Chao, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor

The Women's Bureau was created by Congress in 1920 with a mission to improve women's working conditions, to eliminate barriers that restrict women in reaching their full potential in the workplace, and to promote women through its advocacy, outreach, research and demonstration programs. The Bureau is working to make a real difference in the lives of young girls and women by implementing initiatives to increase their participation in the education pipeline leading to jobs in science, engineering and technology. The Women's Bureau Region V is comprised of six states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Women's Bureau, joined by Illinois Institute of Technology and our co-sponsors and partners, presents this conference focusing not only on the obstacles facing women and girls, but also the solutions. We are looking for ways to encourage girls to take math and science courses and to help college women succeed in the traditionally male-dominated fields of science, engineering and technology. The conference will examine ways to support women and girls to succeed and advance in science, engineering and technology careers. We will explore how women and girls can work together to expand the pipeline that leads to high-paying, high-skilled jobs in science, engineering and technology.

PROGRAM

8:00 – 9:00 AM	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**
9:00 – 9:30 AM	**Welcome**
9:30 – 10:30 AM	**Where Does the Pipeline Leak?** *What barriers face women and girls?*
10:45 – 12:00 PM	**Building a Better Pipeline** *Best practices & solutions for women & girls*
12:15 – 1:30 PM	**Lunch & Panel: Women Working in Science, Engineering & Technology** *Announcement of Women's Bureau e-mentoring program for girls*
1:45 – 2:45 PM	**Roundtable Discussions - Finding Solutions** ♦ Keeping Girls Interested in Math, Science & Technology *With junior high and high school girls* ♦ Attracting and Retaining College Women Students in Science, Engineering & Technology *With women college & graduate students* ♦ Careers in Science, Engineering & Technology *Recruitment, Retention & Advancement* ♦ Academic Women in Science, Engineering & Technology *Teaching & Research Careers in SET*
3:00 – 4:00 PM	**Plenary Session** *Reporting on roundtable findings*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

This one-day program includes a continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials. To register, please visit the conference website at **www.iit.edu/registration/dolwb** or complete and mail in this registration form. Seating is limited, please register early. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, please contact the Women's Bureau at 1-800-648-8183.

2000 - 2001
Award of Excellence
Nomination

The Field Museum

Staff Member Being Nominated:

Name _____

Department _____

Reason for nomination. Please be specific - nomination must include specific example/s (attach additional sheet if necessary):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

When Did This Occur (actual or approximate):

_____

_____

Submitted By:

Name _____

Department _____

Telephone Extension _____

Signature _____ **Today's Date** _____

Return this form to the Human Resources Department anytime before September 1, 2001. If you have any questions, please call ext. 7271.